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PATENT 9/27/02
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09/211,730

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Keith C. Thomas
Serial No.: 09/211,730
Filed: December 15, 1998
Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR USER-BASED CONTROL OF TELEVISION CONTENT

Examiner: Robert T. Pham
Group Art Unit: 2611
Docket: 450.241US1

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Applicant has reviewed the Office Action mailed on May 24, 2002. Please amend claims 7 and 24 as follows. A set of pending claims following these amendments is provided in an appendix to this response.

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IN THE CLAIMS

7. [Amended] An apparatus for controlling access to information based on content of the information and user identity comprising:
- a video display;
 - a user-recognition input device that determines which users are present in a given area having access to the display and provides one or more values that correspond to the identities of the users;
 - a memory containing information that identifies a video content that is being displayed on the video display, and information specifying which users are to be permitted access to that content;
 - a processor that compares a user-identity value from the input device to the memory content specifying [which specifies] which users are to be permitted access to that content and that produces an access-allowed indication based on that comparison; and
 - a blocking device coupled to the processor that selectively blocks display of the content based on the access-allowed indication.